

## **INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

### **Amend Training and Testing Specifications for Peace Officer Basic Courses**

### **Commission Regulations 1005, 1007, and 1008**

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The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) proposes to amend Regulations 1005, 1007, and 1008, and the document *Training and Testing Specifications for Peace Officer Basic Courses* to address the following changes:

- Standardize skills testing for the Basic Course
- Make additional updates to curriculum as part of an ongoing review

All changes to basic academy curriculum begin with recommendations from law enforcement practitioners or in some cases, via legislative mandates. POST then facilitates meetings with curriculum advisors and subject matter experts (SMEs) who recommend changes to existing academy curriculum. These recommendations are submitted to the Consortium Advisory Committee (CAC), which is comprised of academy directors and coordinators. The CAC-approved recommendations are then reviewed by all academies at the quarterly Basic Course Consortium meetings facilitated by POST. The Consortium approved these proposed changes at its September 10, 2008 and December 3, 2008 meetings. The Commission approved them at its January 22, 2009 Commission meeting, subject to the Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action process.

#### **Standardize Skill Testing for the Basic Course**

For several years, the members of the California Academy Directors' Association (CADA) have expressed concern about the ability of academies to defend the presenter-developed skills test and standards required in POST's *Training & Testing Specifications for Peace Officer Basic Courses*. These testing specifications require comprehensive skills testing but only provide general guidelines for constructing these tests. Consequently, test procedures and evaluation standards vary widely, and few academies have confidence that they would be properly prepared to defend themselves if challenged.

Given this concern, the Commission established Strategic Plan Objective A.4.02 that included the standardization of skills testing for Firearms in LD 35, Defensive Tactics in LD 33, and Vehicle Operations in LD 19. In response to this objective, POST embarked on a project to implement standardization of skills testing and to develop skills test forms. POST convened a subject matter committee that met several times to develop testing standards and create new Standards & Performance Dimensions (competencies) test forms.

The newly proposed standards will allow presenters to create their own defensive tactics, and vehicle operations programs based on local training needs. The firearms test standards have already been established and approved. The attached Competency Test Forms have been pilot tested and validated by POST staff in cooperation with local presenters. The attached *Training & Testing Specifications for Peace Officer Basic Courses* will reflect the proposed changes in LDs 19 & 33 under the *Required Tests* section.

#### **Additional Curriculum Updates**

As part of the ongoing curriculum review, the following domains have been revised to either reflect emerging training needs, improve student learning and evaluation, or to comply with legislative mandates:

*LD 4, Victimology/Crisis Intervention*  
*LD 11, Juvenile Law & Procedures*  
*LD 13, ABC Law*

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*LD 16, Search & Seizure*  
*LD 19, Vehicle Operations*  
*LD 22, Vehicle Pullovers*  
*LD 25, Domestic Violence*  
*LD 28, Traffic Enforcement*  
*LD 29, Traffic Collision Investigation*  
*LD 30, Crime Scenes, Evidence, and Forensics*  
*LD 32, Lifetime Fitness*  
*LD 33, Arrest Methods/Defensive Tactics*  
*LD 34, First Aid/CPR*  
*LD 35, Firearms/Chemical Agents*

The numbers on the attached *Legend of Recommendations* corresponds with the reference numbers on the LD pages for each topic of the *Training and Testing Specification for Peace Officer Basic Courses*. Each number explains the rationale for the amendments.

#### **Justification – Regulation 1005, 1007, & 1008**

New effective date updates the incorporation by reference statements for historical accuracy.

#### **Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting California Businesses, Including Small Businesses**

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has made an initial determination that the amended regulations will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses, including the ability to compete with businesses in other states. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training has found that the proposed amendments will have no effect on California businesses, including small businesses, because the Commission sets selection and training standards for law enforcement and does not impact California businesses, including small businesses.

#### **Cost Impacts on Representative Private Persons or Businesses**

The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action.

#### **Assessment**

The adoption of the proposed regulation amendments will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the state of California and will not result in the elimination of existing businesses or create or expand businesses in the State of California.

#### **Considerations of Alternatives**

To take this action, the Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission or otherwise identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be as effective as and less burdensome to effected private persons than the proposed action.